

Message Text

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ACTION SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-10 USIE-00 AID-05

SY-05 SCA-01 DHA-02 OMB-01 USSS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SAM-01 /096 W

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O 271400Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2455

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0969

TAGS: PINS, OGEN

SUBJECT: JRA TERRORISTS

REF: STATE 197043

1. CHARGE MET AUG 27 WITH MFA NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR SHAABAN TO MAKE DEMARCHE AS INSTRUCTED BY REFTEL. WE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO SEE UNDERSECRETARY DURDAH, BUT HE HAS APPARENTLY BEEN BUSY ATTENDING AN IDEOLOGICAL CAMP, AND SHAABAN IS ACTING AS THIRD RANKING OFFICIAL IN MINISTRY.

2. CHARGE MADE FOLLOWING POINTS ADAPTED FROM REFTEL:

(A) THE U.S. GOVT HAS AN OBVIOUS INTEREST IN SEEING THAT THE TEN JRA GUNMEN ARE PUNISHED FOR WHAT THEY HAVE DONE. THEY BROKE INTO AN AMERICAN EMBASSY, HELD AN AMERICAN CONSUL HOSTAGE, THREATENED THE LIVES OF AMERICAN CITIZENS, AND STOLE AMERICAN GOVT PROPERTY.

(B) THE DECISION OF THE LIBYAN GOVT TO LET THE JRA GUNMEN LAND IN LIBYA FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS MUST HAVE BEEN A DIFFICULT ONE FOR LIBYA'S LEADERS.

WE UNDERSTAND THIS. BUT NOW THE U.S. GOVT BELIEVES

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THAT IN THE INTEREST OF PREVENTING FURTHER BLOODSHED, THE

SAME HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS MAKE IT NECESSARY THAT THESE CRIMINALS BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE. THEY ARE A SMALL GROUP OF NIHILISTS WHO BELIEVE IN NOTHING BUT VIOLENCE, AND WE CANNOT BELIEVE THAT THE LIBYAN GOVT APPROVES OF THEIR METHODS.

(C) THE U.S. GOVT UNDERSTANDS THAT THERE ARE LEGAL PROBLEMS INVOLVED, BUT WE HOPE THAT THE CONCERNED GOVERNMENTS, JAPANESE, LIBYAN AND MALAYSIAN, CAN WORK TOGETHER TO RESOLVE THEM. THE UNITED STATES IS ALSO APPROACHING THE JAPANESE AND MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENTS TO STRESS OUR CONVICTION THAT IT IS VITAL THAT THESE GUNMEN BE SEVERELY PUNISHED, AND THAT THEY NOT BE SET FREE TO ATTACK OTHER INNOCENT PEOPLE SOMEWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD.

3. SHAABAN TOOK CAREFUL NOTE OF THESE POINTS, AND REPLIED SOMEWHAT DEFENSIVELY BY STRESSING THAT LARG DECISION TO ACCEPT TERRORISTS HAD BEEN RESULT OF PLEAS BY JAPANESE AND MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENTS, AND SOLELY FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS. WE SAID THAT WE UNDERSTOOD THIS, BUT IMPORTANT THING WAS NEXT STEP. SHAABAN SAID HE COULD NOT SAY WHETHER TERRORISTS WOULD BE TRIED OR WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO THEM. HE PROMISED TO CONVEY U.S. GOVT CONCERN AND INTEREST IN THIS MATTER FAITHFULLY TO "COMPETENT AUTHORITIES".
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